Claims

What is claimed is:

1. (New) A method comprising:

      mapping contact data from personal information manager (PIM) software to automatically populate an application.

2. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the application is a web application, and the mapping of the contact data is performed to map one or more fields of contact data to one or more corresponding fields of a web page of the web application.

3. (New) A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the mapping is performed using mapping data that defines the mapping of at least one field of the contact data from the PIM software to at least one corresponding field of the web page.

4. (New) A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the mapping data is mapped to map the field of contact data to the corresponding field of the web application via a browser extension embedded in the web page of the application.

5. (New) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the extension is an ActiveX® control.

6. (New) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the extension is a Netscape® plug-in.

-13-

7. (New) A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein a user of the web application uses a computing device to enter one or more alphanumeric characters into a field, the method further comprising:

displaying one or more sets of contact data for the user to select for mapping to the fields of the web page.

8. (New) A method as claimed in claim 2 further comprising:

transmitting the web page populated with contact data via a public communications network to a server executing the web application.

9. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

outputting the mapped contact data generated by automatically populating the contact data to the application, to an output device.

10. (New) A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the output device generates a printed document based on the mapped contact data.

11. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the public communications network is the Internet.

12. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the contact data comprises a person's name.

13.(New) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the contact data comprises a company name.

14. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the contact data comprises an address.

15 (New) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the contact data comprises a telephone number.

16. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the contact data comprises a mobile number.

17. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the contact data comprises a facsimile number.

18. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the contact data comprises an email address.

19. (New) A method comprising:

receiving mapping software at a computing device from a public communications network, the mapping software for generating mapping data that maps at least one field of contact data from a personal information manager (PIM) software to at least one corresponding field of a web application.

20. (New) A method as claimed in claim 19 wherein the application is a web application, and the mapping software can be operated by a user to generate the mapping data to map at least one field of the contact data to at least one corresponding field of the web page of the web application.

21. (New) A method as claimed in claim 19 further comprising:

receiving interface software for automatically populating the web page of the web application with contact data based on the mapping data generated by the mapping software.

22. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the interface software enables a user of the computing device to enter one or more alphanumeric characters, and the interface software generates a display of one or more sets of contact data corresponding to the characters entered by the user, the user selecting from among the displayed sets of contact data to populate the web page of the web application.

23. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the interface software comprises a browser extension embedded in the web page of the web application by a web browser of the computing device.

24. (New) A method as claimed in claim 23 wherein the browser extension is an ActiveX® control.

25. (New) A method as claimed in claim 23 wherein the browser extension is a Netscape® plug-in.

26. (New) A method comprising:

receiving interface software at a computing device from a public communications network, the interface software for automatically populating the web page of the web application with contact data based on the mapping data generated by the mapping software.

27. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26 wherein the interface software enables a user of the computer to enter one or more alphanumeric characters, and the interface software generates a display of one or more sets of contact data corresponding to the characters entered by the user, the user selecting from among the displayed sets of contact data to populate the web page of the web application.

28. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26 wherein the interface software comprises a browser extension embedded in the web page of the web application by a web browser of the computing device.

29. (New) A method as claimed in claim 28 wherein the browser extension comprises an ActiveX® control.

30. (New) A method as claimed in claim 28 wherein the browser extension comprises a Netscape® plug-in.

31. (New) A method comprising:

transmitting mapping software for generating mapping data that maps contact data from a personal information manager (PIM) software to an application.

32. (New) A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein the transmitting is performed at a web server to transmit the mapping software over a public communications network to a computing device.

33. (New) A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein the application is a web application.

34. (New) A method as claimed in claim 33 wherein the mapping software maps one or more fields of the contact data to one or more corresponding fields of a web page of the web application to generate the mapping data.

35. (New) A method as claimed in claim 34 wherein the mapping software can be operated by a user to generate the mapping data by indicating the mapping of at least one field of the contact data to at least one corresponding field of the web page of the web application.

36. (New) A method as claimed in claim 31 further comprising:

transmitting interface software for automatically populating the application with contact data based on the mapping data generated by the mapping software.

37. (New) A method as claimed in claim 36 wherein the interface software enables a user to enter one or more alphanumeric characters into a computing device running the interface software, and the interface software generates a display of one or more sets of contact data corresponding to the one or more characters entered by the user, the user selecting from among the displayed sets of contact data to populate the application.

38. (New) A method as claimed in claim 36 wherein the interface software comprises a browser extension embedded in a web page of the web application by a web browser of the computing device.

39. (New) A method as claimed in claim 38 wherein the browser extension comprises an ActiveX control.

40. (New) A method as claimed in claim 38 wherein the browser extension comprises a Netscape® plug-in.

41. (New) A method as claimed in claim 36 wherein the mapping software and interface software are received by a computing device executing the mapping software and interface software in a set-up file from a remote web server via a public communications network.

42. (New) A method as claimed in claim 41 wherein the public communications network is the Internet.

43. (New) A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein the contact data comprises a person's name.

44. (New) A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein the contact data comprises a company name.

45. (New) A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein the contact data comprises an address.

46. (New) A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein the contact data comprises a telephone number.

47. (New) A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein the contact data comprises a mobile number.

48. (New) A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein the contact data comprises a facsimile number.

49. (New) A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein the contact data comprises an email address.

50. (New) A method comprising:

transmitting interface software for automatically populating an application with contact data from personal information manager (PIM) software based on mapping data.

51. (New) A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein the application is a web application.

52. (New) A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein the interface software enables a user of the computer to enter one or more alphanumeric characters, and the interface software generates a display of one or more sets of contact data corresponding to the one or more characters entered by the user, the user selecting from among the displayed sets of contact data to populate a web page of the web application.

-21-

53. (New) A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein the interface software comprises a browser extension embedded in the web page of the web application by a web browser of the computing device.

54. (New) A method as claimed in claim 53 wherein the browser extension comprises an ActiveX® control.

55. (New) A method as claimed in claim 53 wherein browser extension comprises a Netscape® plug-in.

56. (New) A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein the interface software is transmitted by a server over a public communications network to a computing device for execution thereon.

57. (New) A method as claimed in claim 56 wherein the public communications network is the Internet.

58. (New) A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein the contact data comprises a person's name.

59. (New) A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein the contact data comprises a company name.

60. (New) A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein the contact data comprises an address.

61 (New) A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein the contact data comprises a telephone number.

62. (New) A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein the contact data comprises a mobile number.

63. (New) A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein the contact data comprises a facsimile number.

64. (New) A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein the contact data comprises an email address.

65. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a computing device executing interface software to map contact data from personal information manager (PIM) software to automatically populate an application.

66. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 65 wherein the application is a web application, and the mapping of the contact data is performed by the computing device to map one or more fields of contact data to one or more corresponding fields of a web page of the web application.

67. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 65 wherein the mapping is performed by the computing device using mapping data that defines the mapping of at least one field of the contact data from the PIM software to at least one corresponding field of the web page.

68. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 65 wherein the mapping data is defined through execution of mapping software by the computing device so that the user can specify the mapping of fields of the contact data to corresponding fields of the web page.

69. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 65 wherein the mapping data is used by the computing device to map the field of the contact data to the corresponding field of the web page of the web application via a browser extension embedded in the web page of the application.

70. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 69 wherein the browser extension comprises an ActiveX® control.

71. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 69 wherein the browser extension comprises a Netscape® plug-in.

72. (New) A method as claimed in claim 65 wherein a user of the web application uses a computing device to enter one or more alphanumeric characters into a field of a web page of the web application, the method further comprising:

displaying one or more sets of contact data for the user to select for mapping to the one or more fields of the web page.

73. (New) A method as claimed in claim 65 further comprising:

transmitting the web page populated with contact data via a public communications network to a server executing the web application.

74. (New) A method as claimed in claim 65 further comprising:

outputting the mapped contact data generated by automatically populating the contact data to the application, to an output device.

75. (New) A method as claimed in claim 65 wherein the output device generates a printed document based on the mapped contact data.

76. (New) A method as claimed in claim 65 wherein the public communications network is the Internet.

77. (New) A method as claimed in claim 65 wherein the contact data comprises at least one of a person's name, a company name, an address, a telephone number, a mobile number, a facsimile number, and an email address.

78. (New) A system using a public communications network, the system comprising:

a web server having a web application with at least one web page, and a set-up file with mapping software and interface software; and

a computing device connected to communicate with the web server via the public communications network, and having personal information manager (PIM) software storing contact data,

the web server transmitting the set-up file to the computing device via the public communications network,

the computing device receiving the set-up file from the web server and executing the mapping software to map at least one field of contact data from the PIM software to at least one field of a web page of the web application to generate mapping data, and executing the interface software to map at least one field of contact data to at least one field of the web page of the web application based on the mapping data, to automatically populate the field of the web page with corresponding data.

79. (New) A system as claimed in claim 78 wherein the computing device transmits the web page with populated data to the web server via the public communications network for processing by the web application executed by the web server.

80. (New) A system as claimed in claim 78 further comprising:

an output device connected to the computing device, the output device generating a printed document having mapped contact data automatically populated by the application.

-26-

81. (New) A method as claimed in claim 78 wherein the output device generates a printed document based on the mapped contact data.

82. (New) A method as claimed in claim 78 wherein the public communications network is the Internet.

83. (New) A method as claimed in claim 82 wherein the contact data comprises at least one of a person's name, a company name, an address, a telephone number, a mobile number, a facsimile number, and an email address.

84. (New) A computer-readable medium having a software executable by a computer to map contact data from personal information manager (PIM) software to automatically populate an application with contact data.

85. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 84 wherein the application is a web application, and the mapping of the contact data is performed to map one or more fields of contact data to one or more corresponding fields of a web page of the web application.

86. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 84 wherein the mapping is performed using mapping data that defines the mapping of at least one field of the contact data from the PIM software to at least one corresponding field of the web page.

87. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 84 wherein the mapping data is mapped to map contact data to the corresponding fields of the web application via a browser extension embedded in the web page of the application.

88. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 87 wherein the browser extension comprises a ActiveX® control.

89. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 87 wherein the browser extension comprises a Netscape® plug-in.

90. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 84 wherein a user of the web application uses a computing device to enter one or more alphanumeric characters into a field of a web page of the web application, the computer program executable by the computing device to display one or more sets of contact data for the user to select for mapping to the fields of the web page.

91. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 84 wherein the computer program is executable by the computer to transmit the web page populated with contact data via a public communications network to a server executing the web application.

92.(New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 84 wherein the computer program is executable by the computer to output the mapped contact data generated by automatically populating the contact data to the application, to an output device.

93. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 84 wherein the output device generates a printed document based on the mapped contact data.

94. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 84 wherein the public communications network is the Internet.

95. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 84 wherein the contact data comprises a person's name.

96. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 84 wherein the contact data comprises a company name.

97. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 84 wherein the contact data comprises an address.

98. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 84 wherein the contact data comprises a telephone number.

99. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 84 wherein the contact data comprises a mobile number.

100. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 84 wherein the contact data comprises a facsimile number.

101. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 84 wherein the contact data comprises an email address.

102. (New) A computer-readable medium having mapping software executable by a computer to generate mapping data that maps contact data from personal information manager (PIM) software to an application.

103. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 102 wherein the medium receives the mapping software from a web server over a public communications network to a computing device.

104. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 102 wherein the application is a web application.

105. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 102 wherein the mapping software maps one or more fields of the contact data to one or more corresponding fields of a web page of the web application to generate the mapping data.

106. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 105 wherein the mapping software can be operated by a user to generate the mapping data by indicating the mapping of at least one field of the contact data to at least one corresponding field of the web page of the web application.

107. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 106 wherein the transmitting interface software for automatically populating the application with contact data based on the mapping data generated by the mapping software.

108. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 107 wherein the interface software enables a user to enter one or more alphanumeric characters into a computing device running the interface software, and the interface software generates a display of one or more sets of contact data corresponding to the one or more characters entered by the user, the user selecting from among the displayed sets of contact data to populate the application.

109. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 108 wherein the interface software comprises a browser extension embedded in a web page of the web application by a web browser of the computing device.

110. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 109 wherein the browser extension comprises an ActiveX® control.

111. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 109 wherein the browser extension comprises a Netscape® plug-in.

112. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 108 wherein the mapping software and interface software are received by a computing device executing the mapping software and interface software in a set-up file from a remote web server via a public communications network.

113. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 112 wherein the public communications network is the Internet.

114. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 102 wherein the contact data comprises a person's name.

115. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 102 wherein the contact data comprises a company name.

116. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 102 wherein the contact data comprises an address.

117. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 102 wherein the contact data comprises a telephone number.

118. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 102 wherein the contact data comprises a mobile number.

119. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 102 wherein the contact data comprises a facsimile number.

120. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 102 wherein the contact data comprises an email address.